



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - March 5, 2003

- ***In the West***, mild, mostly dry weather prevails, although recent storminess has boosted soil moisture reserves and provided limited drought relief.
- ***On the Plains***, cold weather continues to limit winter wheat development across ***southernmost areas*** and keep the crop in dormancy elsewhere in the region. Concerns about winter wheat persist across the ***northern and central High Plains*** due to limited soil moisture reserves and lack of a substantial snow cover during recent cold outbreaks.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow lingers across parts of the ***Ohio Valley*** and ***lower Great Lakes region***. Much of the remainder of the ***Midwest*** is recovering from a 2- to 10-inch, wind-driven snowfall that hampered rural travel and increased livestock stress, but boosted topsoil moisture. Bitterly cold weather prevails across the ***upper Midwest***, where this morning's low temperatures ranged from 0 to -30 degrees F.
- ***In the South***, mild, dry weather favors a gradual return to fieldwork, although some lowland flooding persists. Very warm weather continues across ***southern Florida***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to approach 90 degrees F.

Outlook: For the remainder of today, snow will spread across the ***lower Great Lakes region and northern New England***, while rain is expected in the ***Mid-Atlantic States and southern New England***. As a strong cold front moves southward after mid-week, bitterly cold air will settle into the ***upper Midwest and Northeast***, while rain will develop across the ***Southeast***. Farther west, a series of Pacific storms will bring locally heavy precipitation and gusty winds to the ***Pacific Northwest*** and ***northern and central portions of the Rockies and Plains***. During the weekend, another Arctic cold front will reinforce the bitterly cold conditions across the ***nation's northern tier***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 10-14 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***West Coast States, northern Rockies, southern Atlantic region, and the Northeast***, while drier-than-normal weather is expected in the ***Southwest, central and southern portions of the Rockies and Plains, and middle Mississippi Valley***. Colder-than-normal weather will prevail across the ***northern half of the U.S.***, while above-normal temperatures are forecast in the ***Southwest, Rio Grande Valley, and southern Florida***.

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